

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03707 061349Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----070155 061351Z /40  
R 060838Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8417

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: APER, OGEN  
SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 1648, (B) STATE 154335, (C) STATE 154336

1. THE ASSESSMENT OF EMBASSY KUWAIT'S RESOURCES MADE IN OUR PARTS II AND III OF OUR PARM (REF A) REMAIN ESSENTIALLY VALID. THIS EMBASSY'S STAFF IS NOT REALLY SUFFICIENT TO MEET BASIC REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL OF OVERTIME WORK ON THE PART OF OUR DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS. (IT IS MANIFESTLY UNFAIR TO DEMAND THIS OF THEM WHEN THERE ARE LARGER POSTS WHERE THE WORKLOAD PERMITS OFFICES TO OBSERVE REGULAR HOURS.) THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL AND CONSULAR SECTIONS AS POINTED OUT IN REF. A (PART II PARA 3 AND PART III SEC. B, PARA 2 AND 3 FOR ECON/COMM'L AND PART II PARA 4 AND PART III SEC. B PARA 4 FOR CONSULAR).

2. THERE IS CLEARLY THE NEED FOR ONE MORE ECON/COMM'L OFFICER AND AN ADDITIONAL FULL-TIME CONSULAR OFFICER. I HAVE A PROPOSAL WHICH I WILL MAKE IN MY RESPONSE TO REF. C THAT I BELIEVE COULD HELP SOLVE THE EMBASSY'S PROBLEM IN THIS RESPECT  
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FOR FY-78. I ASK THAT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO IT.

3. MY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION STAFF, CONSISTING OF AN ADMIN OFFICER, GSO AND B&F OFFICER, IS, IN MY OPINION, SLIGHTLY BELOW THE MINIMUM REQUIRED. WE NEED AN ASSISTANT GSO TO HELP SHARE THE HEAVY BURDEN CARRIED BY THE SECTION. IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S OBJECTIVE TO KEEP DOWN

THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS OVERSEAS, I DID NOT ASK FOR THIS ADDITIONAL POSITION, BUT, IF THE EMBASSY'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO SUPPORT USLOK(OUR DEFENSE FIELD OFFICE) ADMINISTRATIVELY INCREASE MEASURABLY, WE WILL DEFINITELY NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF AN ASSISTANT GSO.

4. I HAVE AGAIN REVIEWED THE GROWING NUMBERS OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS FROM OTHER AGENCIES SERVING AT THIS POST AND WISH TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. THE SINGLE USIS OFFICER ASSIGNED HERE IS, OF COURSE THE BARE MINIMUM REQUIRED.

B. THE DOD REPRESENTATION HERE CONSISTS OF THE US LIAISON OFFICE KUWAIT (USLOK), CURRENTLY NUMBERING 11 WITH 7 MORE TO COME (17 OF WHICH ARE FUNDED BY THE GOVT. OF KUWAIT), 2 WSLOS (WEAPONS SYSTEM LIAISON OFFICERS), ALSO FUNDED BY GOK, AND 7 IHAWK MILITARY PERSONNEL, AGAIN FUNDED BY GOK. ALL COME UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF CHIEF, USLOK. I AM FULLY CONVINCED THIS NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL IS REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE FMS PROGRAM IN KUWAIT AND, INDEED IN THE CASE OF USLOK, HAS ONLY JUST RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT UP TO PROPER LEVEL.

C. THERE ARE ALSO PRESENT IN KUWAIT 7 USG PERSONNEL FROM THE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION - FHWA (5) AND FAA (2), AND 5 TO COME SOON FROM FHWA (2) AND GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (3). THESE USG PERSONNEL, TOGETHER WITH 2 AMERICANS UNDER AID CONTRACTS, ARE ASSIGNED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SERVICES TO VARIOUS GOK AGENCIES  
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UNDER A REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT. SOME WERE HERE WHEN I ARRIVED AND I HAVE CONCURRED IN THE ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS REQUESTED BY THE GOK BECAUSE I FELT THAT THIS AMERICAN PRESENCE IN GOK MINISTRIES SERVED TO PROMOTE CLOSER AND MORE COOPERATIVE US-KUWAIT RELATIONS. I HAD HOPED THAT THEIR INFLUENCE WOULD ALSO ASSIST AMERICAN FIRMS IN GAINING CONTRACTS AND MAKING EQUIPMENT SALES. BECAUSE OF BOYCOTT PROBLEMS AND COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGES DUE TO VARIOUS FACTORS INCLUDING THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1976, THIS HOPE HAS NOT QUITE BEEN FULFILLED. IF THE PRESIDENT'S CONCERN ABOUT NUMBERS OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS OVERSEAS RELATES ALSO TO THOSE FUNDED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, THEN I WOULD NOT DEEM THE PRESENCE OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED USG PERSONNEL AS ESSENTIAL. CERTAIN GOK MINISTRIES WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED, OF COURSE, BUT THESE ADVISORS COULD BE REPLACED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. INDEED, IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT USG PERSONNEL IN THESE POSITIONS DEPRIVE PRIVATE AMERICANS OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE FOR THEM. HOWEVER, IN REALISTIC TERMS, THE GOK PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO PAY THE HIGH SALARIES PRIVATE AMERICANS WOULD ASK FOR, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE IMPACT OF THE TAX REFORM ACT. IN ANY EVENT, I DO NOT

CONSIDER THEIR PRESENCE AS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE  
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF MY MISSION IN KUWAIT.  
MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

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